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Programme planning

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 16
Economic development in Europe

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* A/63/50.

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Overall orientation

16.1 The programme is under the responsibility of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

16.2 Acting in its dual role as regional outpost of the United Nations and part of its regional institutional landscape, ECE will continue to pursue the key objectives shared by all the regional commissions, namely, to foster economic integration at the subregional and regional levels, to promote the regional implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to support regional sustainable development by contributing to bridging economic, social and environmental gaps among their member countries and subregions. To achieve these objectives, all regional commissions, through their convening power, will continue to generate multilateral dialogue, knowledge-sharing and networking at the regional level, and will work together to promote intraregional and interregional cooperation, both among themselves and through collaboration with other regional organizations.

16.3 Taking into account the role of the regional commissions as expressed above and the goals and commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the main objectives of the ECE work programme for 2010-2011 will be (a) to support the integration of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia as well as South-East Europe into the pan-European economy, taking into account the enlarged European Union and the various integration initiatives under way in the eastern part of the region, (b) to improve the quality of life and to contribute to the sustainable development of the region, and (c) to enhance competitiveness, in particular in the emerging market economies and low income countries of the region, thereby contributing to their economic prosperity. ECE will engage and promote partnerships among all public and private stakeholders to achieve these objectives.

16.4 The ECE programme of work, in accordance with the decisions taken by member States as part of the 2005 workplan on ECE reform (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1), is designed around eight subprogrammes, namely, economic cooperation and integration, environment, housing, land management and population, statistics, sustainable energy, timber and forestry, trade, and transport. The core strategy focuses on (a) the implementation of existing legally binding instruments, norms, standards and guidelines as well as negotiation of new ones based on the needs of member States, (b) the provision of technical assistance, policy advice and capacity-building to support the implementation of these norms and standards by countries with economies in transition and (c) the organization of policy debate and exchange of experience in the areas of ECE expertise, including supporting policy analysis, studies and statistics.

16.5 ECE normative work will promote greater regulatory compatibility among its member States. It will therefore stimulate transboundary cooperation, in particular for further opening borders and addressing environmental challenges. At the same time, due account will be given to the region's concern for increased security. It will also have a positive impact on the rest of the world, as many ECE-developed agreements and standards (in particular in the areas of transport, trade facilitation and statistics) become more accepted for use in countries of other regions.

16.6 Particular attention will be given to advancing intersectoral activities, in particular between the energy, environment, timber, trade and transport sectors. Furthermore, ECE will focus on the gender dimension of development as it relates to women in the economy.

16.7 Policy debate and exchange of experience among ECE member States will facilitate the identification of policies and good practices conducive to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

16.8 ECE technical cooperation activities will be directed at the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and South-East Europe. They will contribute to improving national capacities to implement legally binding instruments and other regional norms and standards, and to resolving transboundary challenges. In this respect, ECE will strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, both at the regional and country levels. In addition, the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, jointly executed with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), will be further strengthened.

16.9 In order to improve coherence in the development work of the United Nations, consultations have taken place among concerned entities of the Executive Committee of Economic and Social Affairs at the thematic cluster level. These consultations are expected to lead to better coordination and more collaborative work among programmes in major common work areas of the United Nations Secretariat in the social and economic sectors.

16.10 Building upon the complementarity of mandates, functions and areas of expertise, ECE will strengthen its cooperation with key partners in the region, in particular with the European Commission and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as with major subregional players.

Subprogramme 1
Environment

Objective of the Organization: to safeguard the environment and health, improve environmental management throughout the region and further promote integration of environmental policies into sectoral policies

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened national capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment systems in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe	(a) Increased number of countries applying the environmental indicators as defined in the ECE guidelines for the application of environmental indicators
(b) Strengthened implementation of ECE regional environmental commitments by member States	(b) Increased number of reports from countries indicating progress in implementing legally binding instruments

(c) Improved environmental performance in countries with economies in transition	(c) (i) Increased number of countries with improved environmental performance as measured by a set of indicators developed for environmental performance reviews (ii) Increased number of recommendations which have contributed to policy formulation and implementation, as reported by the reviewed countries

Strategy

16.11 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division. In line with its objective, the subprogramme will emphasize a country needs-based approach in carrying out its activities. It will focus on building the capacity of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe in environmental policy and management, including for the effective implementation of environmental legislation.

16.12 The subprogramme will continue to conduct the second round of environmental performance reviews of countries with economies in transition and assist them to implement the recommendations of their national environmental performance reviews. Furthermore, it will monitor the impact of such recommendations on policy formulation and implementation. The subprogramme will also assist to build capacity for environmental observation and reporting, which will contribute to provide timely and accurate environmental data to improve monitoring and assessment in these countries. The ECE guidelines on the application of environmental indicators will be promoted for use in member States for environmental monitoring and assessment.

16.13 While taking into account the Millennium Development Goals, the subprogramme will further promote the implementation of sustainable development in the ECE region and the outcomes of regional environment and sustainable development conferences, in particular the decisions taken by the Sixth Ministerial Conference, "Environment for Europe" (Belgrade, 2007).

16.14 Actions will be taken to further integrate environment into other sectoral policies through intersectoral programmes and projects, including education for sustainable development, transport, health and environment as well as water and health. It will also improve cross-border environmental security in cooperation with the other regional organizations involved. Cross-sectoral work will also include the promotion of synergies and cooperation between the ECE legally binding instruments.

16.15 Emphasis will be placed on supporting the implementation of regional and subregional agreements and action programmes, as well as multi-stakeholder processes and partnerships resulting from, inter alia, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and from the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in particular by providing regional contributions to the programme cycle of the Commission.

Subprogramme 2
Transport

Objective of the Organization: to facilitate the international movement of persons and goods by inland transport modes and improve safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency and security in the transport sector to levels that contribute effectively to sustainable development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened legal and regulatory framework for international land transport covering road, rail, inland waterway and intermodal transport modes, as well as infrastructure and services, and border crossing facilitation, transport of dangerous goods, vehicle construction and other transport issues	(a) (i) Increased share of the legal instruments in force relative to the total number of agreed ECE legal instruments on transport (56 major legal instruments) (ii) The number of new vehicle regulations and amendments (iii) The number of international legal instruments amended to reflect the latest revised edition of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
(b) Improved law enforcement and increased implementation of the ECE legal instruments and recommendations on transport	(b) (i) Increased number of States parties to ECE legal instruments on transport (ii) The number of implementation monitoring mechanisms in place as agreed by the member States
(c) Enhanced national capacity for the development of the pan-European and transcontinental transport infrastructure, in particular in Eastern and South-Eastern European countries, as well as in South-Caucasian and Central Asian countries	(c) (i) Increased number of States parties to four key agreements leading to enhanced coverage of the ECE region by transport infrastructure agreements (ii) Increased number of ECE countries participating in subregional projects leading to enhanced coverage of the ECE region by regional and subregional transport investment plans
(d) Enhanced trade and transport facilitation with special attention to landlocked transition economies and their transit neighbours as a result of the extended implementation of the Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention)	(d) Increased number of TIR Carnets issued

Strategy

16.16 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Transport Division. The subprogramme will focus on four broad functional areas: strengthened legal and regulatory framework for international land transport; improved law enforcement; support to the development of the pan-European and transcontinental transport infrastructure; and enhanced trade and transport facilitation.

16.17 The strengthened legal and regulatory framework will include both new instruments and recommendations on transport issues as well as the updating and improvement of the 56 existing agreements and numerous regulations and recommendations. This will cover all modes of surface transport, that is, road, rail, inland waterways and intermodal, as well as in special areas of interest, for example, vehicle construction and transport of dangerous goods. This will be achieved through consensus and agreement at ECE intergovernmental meetings on transport.

16.18 With regard to improved implementation and law enforcement, steps will be taken to promote new accessions to ECE legal instruments. Implementation will be promoted and surveyed through improved monitoring mechanisms for as many legal instruments as possible. To this end, the incorporation of certain ECE legal instruments (e.g., vehicle regulations and transport of dangerous goods) in the European Union Community *acquis* by the European Commission will continue to play an important role.

16.19 In support of the pan-European and Euro-Asian economic integration, emphasis will be placed on regional and subregional cooperation for enhancing national capacity for the development of transport infrastructure. The Euro-Asian transport links will be promoted in cooperation with ESCAP. Other transport infrastructure investments in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, as well as those to strengthen transport links between Europe and Africa, and the Middle East, including across the Mediterranean, will be promoted in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

16.20 Cooperation and partnerships will be intensified with the European Union and other international organizations active in the field of transport, such as the International Transport Forum. Cooperation will continue with the World Health Organization and the other regional commissions in order to improve global road safety and law enforcement in response to General Assembly resolution 60/5. The public-private dialogue will be scaled up through closer cooperation with non-governmental organizations representing transport operators, relevant industries, transport users and consumers. Trade and transport facilitation and border-crossing facilitation, in particular, will be mainstreamed, inter alia, through the widespread use of the TIR transit guarantee system and the implementation of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods. The special needs of landlocked transition economies and their transit neighbours will be considered.

16.21 New multisectoral projects will be embarked on while existing ones (inter alia, on transport, health and environment; trade and transport facilitation; improving energy efficiency in transport in response to global warming concerns; and public-private partnerships in transport) will be strengthened.

16.22 The Division also services the Economic and Social Council Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and its subsidiary bodies.

Subprogramme 3
Statistics

Objective of the Organization: to improve the reliability of national official statistics and their comparability at the international level, and to ensure the coordination of international statistical activities undertaken in the region

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Streamlined activity patterns of statistical work between international organizations through elimination of overlaps and gaps	(a) The number of international organizations regularly reporting their activities in the integrated presentation of international statistical work programmes
(b) Increased timeliness, comparability, completeness and reliability of macroeconomic, social and demographic statistics, in particular about the less advanced countries of the region	(b) (i) Increased percentage of available data of good quality in the overview tables (percentage of filled data cells to the total number of data cells) (ii) Increased percentage of users that express, through user surveys, satisfaction with the quality, coverage and timeliness of data contained in the ECE database
(c) Enhanced set of internationally recommended standards and practices to ensure comparable statistics	(c) (i) Increased number of new or revised international statistical standards and recommendations to which ECE has contributed significantly in substance (ii) The number of statistical areas (according to the Database of International Statistical Activities classification) in which ECE undertakes substantive methodological work
(d) Progress in implementation of international standards and good practices by statistical systems, in particular in less developed countries of the region	(d) (i) Increased number of countries ensuring better compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics through revision of their national statistical legislation (ii) Increased number of ECE recommendations implemented at the country level to improve national institutional frameworks for official statistics

Strategy

16.23 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Statistical Division. Coordinating all international statistical activities undertaken in the region will remain a central component of the strategy under the subprogramme. The subprogramme will promote the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics within the international statistical community, provide advice to countries on institutional frameworks of official statistics and monitor the implementation of the Fundamental Principles.

16.24 Concerning methodological work, the programme will focus on a selected number of niches in different subject areas, in particular those where ECE can provide an added value and complement the work undertaken by other international organizations. The work will concentrate on developing standards, guidelines and leading practices, including the advice on existing United Nations standards, and related implementation at the national level. Public access to all meeting documents, work programmes and statistical standards and recommendations will provide the basis for transparency and accountability.

16.25 Technical cooperation activities will focus on key priorities, reflecting the needs of countries. They will be demand-driven and concentrate on areas where United Nations standards exist, such as population censuses, indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals, national accounts and prices.

16.26 The data work undertaken by the Statistical Division will respond to a sustained internal and external demand. Data will be accessible to the public via the Internet. A quality framework will ensure relevance, timeliness and user-friendliness of data dissemination.

16.27 Cooperation with the statistical services of other international organizations will continue in the form of joint meetings aimed at coordinating the development of methodologies and the preparation of standards, recommendations and the publication of best practices, as well as by using modern tools of data-sharing.

Subprogramme 4
Economic cooperation and integration

Objective of the Organization: to promote a policy, financial and regulatory environment more conducive to economic growth, innovative development and higher competitiveness of enterprises and economic activities in the ECE region

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased knowledge of good practices and policies on financial and regulatory environment conducive to economic growth, innovative development and higher competitiveness of enterprises and economic activities leading to the formulation of related ECE policy recommendations	(a) The number of policy recommendations resulting from the exchange of good practices and policy experience among member States

(b) Enhanced implementation of the aforementioned ECE policy recommendations	(b) Increased number of practical steps taken by Governments and other stakeholders to implement the policy recommendations
(c) Strengthened national capacity in countries with economies in transition to promote the good practices and implement the aforementioned ECE policy recommendations	(c) The number of country-level follow-up activities resulting from training and other capacity-building activities

Strategy

16.28 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division. In order to achieve its objective, the subprogramme will take up key aspects of economic development and integration and focus mainly on countries with economies in transition. It will facilitate the application of experience gained, lessons learned and good practices conducive to economic growth and innovative development. Recommendations aimed at creating a policy, as well as a financial and regulatory, environment conducive to economic development, investment and innovation will be drawn up. Greater emphasis will be placed on delivering policy advice and capacity-building activities to requesting countries, on the basis of the related policy dialogue, exchange of experience and good practices as well as guidelines and other policy-related documents.

16.29 Building, inter alia, on relevant work carried out by other organizations and institutions, as well as contributions mobilized from external experts, advisers and decision makers, in particular those from countries with economies in transition, an enhanced exchange of experience and policy debate among member States and other stakeholders will take place. Thematic teams of specialists and other groups of experts involving representatives of Governments, international organizations, business associations and other stakeholders will provide a platform for the exchange of national policy experience and the identification of good practices. Subsequently, member States will apply these outputs in drawing up relevant policy recommendations, guidelines and standards. The results of this work would be broadly disseminated to all interested stakeholders and would serve as the basis for technical cooperation activities organized by the secretariat, such as policy advisory services and capacity-building workshops.

Subprogramme 5
Sustainable energy

Objective of the Organization: to move towards a more sustainable development path for the production and use of energy and the fuller integration of the energy infrastructure and energy markets of the countries in the region

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Progress towards sustainable energy development, in particular, cleaner energy production, energy security and diversification of energy sources	(a) (i) Percentage of participant survey respondents indicating they have undertaken concrete actions and policy changes as a result of dialogue between Governments, industry and the financial sector (ii) Percentage of survey respondents indicating that they find ECE information, technical and policy-oriented reports on sustainable energy issues very useful
(b) Progress in addressing energy conservation and efficiency issues across the ECE region, especially those leading to a reduction in energy-related environmental impacts, including progress in the formation of energy efficiency markets in economies in transition	(b) Increased number of energy efficiency investment projects developed under the ECE energy efficiency 21 project that have been approved for financing in the economies in transition
(c) Further extension and implementation of ECE recommendations/guidelines and instruments for sustainable energy development, in particular, extension and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources	(c) (i) Increased number of professional organizations and international standard-setting organizations supporting the further development and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources, including as a basis for financial reporting standards for extractive activities (ii) Increased number of countries expressing intent to apply the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources in their fossil energy and uranium resources management
(d) Progress in implementation of projects in support of sustainable energy development	(d) Increased volume of diesel fuel replaced by natural gas in commercial vehicles on the Blue Corridor project road transport itinerary across Europe

Strategy

16.30 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Sustainable Energy Division. The subprogramme will promote public-private sector cooperation between Governments, energy industries, the financial community and relevant international organizations to foster sustainable energy development in member States. It will assist countries with economies in transition to integrate their energy economies and infrastructure more fully in the region and the global economy, increase energy security for importing and exporting countries alike, reduce greenhouse gas emissions through self-financing mechanisms for trading carbon emissions and coal mine methane, enhance the performance of energy industries and contribute to the long-term supply of fossil fuels through the global adoption of a classification standard for energy reserves and resources.

16.31 While taking into account the Millennium Development Goals, the subprogramme is designed to promote a sustainable energy development strategy for the ECE region, in particular, the mitigation of energy security risks, through the pursuit of sustainable energy policies in the short, medium and long-terms. ECE will promote well balanced energy network systems across the region tailored to optimize operating efficiencies and overall regional cooperation and sustained improvements in energy efficiency. The subprogramme will support the development of self-financing projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in economies in transition for submission to public-private sector investment funds associated with its programme of work. It will promote projects for gas infrastructure and transportation networks, with particular attention to the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe. In the context of post-European Union enlargement, the subprogramme will assist member States with the integration of their energy economies through the compatibility of the legal, regulatory and policy measures, including business practices and the development of classification systems and guidelines, and to conduct studies on natural gas markets.

16.32 ECE will continue to coordinate its activities with other international organizations to ensure efficient use of resources and avoid duplication. The extrabudgetary resources usually attracted by the sustainable energy activities will reinforce the present structure of intergovernmental dialogue. While activities begin with policy dialogue, the subprogramme allows for policy recommendations to be implemented through international norms, standards, training programmes, technical assistance and the preparation of investment projects.

Subprogramme 6
Trade

Objective of the Organization: to facilitate trade and trade-related economic cooperation among countries of the ECE region and with the rest of the world

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Adoption by member States of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation, electronic business, regulatory cooperation and agricultural produce	(a) (i) The number of new and/or updated ECE recommendations, norms, standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business

	(ii) The number of new and/or updated ECE recommendations and standards for regulatory cooperation
	(iii) The number of new and/or updated ECE recommendations and standards for agricultural produce
(b) Increased implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation, electronic business, regulatory cooperation and agricultural produce	(b) (i) The number of national implementations of key trade facilitation and electronic business recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools in selected countries
	(ii) The cumulative total number of implementations of ECE agricultural quality standards in countries (total number of standards multiplied by total number of countries implementing them)
	(iii) The number of downloads of key recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools from the ECE Internet site, as a proxy for their use
	(iv) The number of requests for assistance received from member States and other international organizations to assist in the promotion and implementation of ECE trade-related instruments

Strategy

16.33 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Trade and Timber Division. The subprogramme supports Millennium Declaration Goal 8 of an open, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory trading system, and takes into account the importance given to trade as a key vehicle for economic growth, elimination of poverty and greater regional cooperation and stability in other major United Nations documents. The subprogramme will achieve this by working to reduce barriers to trade in goods and services caused by differences in regulatory approaches and differences in the procedures, standards and documents used by Governments and business for trade. More concretely, it will develop and promote:

(a) Simple, transparent and effective processes for global commerce through the development and maintenance of international trade facilitation instruments, especially to support international supply chains and the integration of countries into the global economy. These instruments include global standards and best practices for moving from paper-based to electronic, business-based processes and for the harmonization, simplification and automation of information flows and business practices used in international trade;

(b) A predictable, transparent and harmonized regulatory environment for commerce and business through the development of frameworks for regulatory convergence, the promotion of international standards within the regulatory environment and the identification of best practices for regulatory enforcement;

(c) Trade in agricultural produce through the development of up-to-date agricultural quality standards, used by Governments for regulatory purposes and the private sector, as well as through explanatory brochures based on these standards in cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables.

16.34 The subprogramme will also support Governments, with a special emphasis on the less economically developed countries in the region, in the national and regional adaptation and implementation of ECE trade-related standards and recommendations, including their integration into national and regional trade facilitation strategies, trade policy and regulatory regimes.

16.35 The subprogramme will draw on the work of its intergovernmental bodies and expert groups, and will reinforce cooperation with principal partners, which include the World Trade Organization, the International Organization for Standardization, the World Customs Organization, OECD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Bank for International Settlements, the World Bank, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), other United Nations regional commissions and a wide variety of private sector organizations.

Subprogramme 7
Timber and forestry

Objective of the Organization: to promote sustainable forest management, including the sound and legal use of wood, other forest products and services, based on appropriate policies and institutions, throughout the ECE region

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased understanding, based on better monitoring of sustainable forest management, encompassing:	(a) (i) Percentage of ECE countries able to provide satisfactory data on qualitative indicators of sustainable forest management
(i) Policies and institutions;	(ii) Percentage of ECE countries able to provide satisfactory data on quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management
(ii) Forest resources;	
(iii) Sound use of wood in domestic and export markets;	

(iv) The outlook for the sector in a broader, cross-sectoral context	(iii) Percentage of ECE countries able to provide satisfactory responses to the ECE/FAO/International Tropical Timber Organization/Eurostat joint forest sector questionnaire (which monitors the sound use of wood)
	(iv) Percentage of policy makers and other stakeholders regarding selected policy forums and workshops as useful
(b) Increased capacity of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-East Europe to achieve sustainable forest management at the national level	(b) Percentage of participants in capacity-building activities regarding them as useful

Strategy

16.36 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Timber Section of the Trade and Timber Division. The subprogramme will aim at developing and applying analytical and monitoring tools, both on policy and on developments on the ground, collecting, validating and disseminating information and analysis, as well as stimulating the exchange of experience, best practices and joint efforts to measure progress. Priorities for 2010-2011 will be guided by the strategic review of the ECE/FAO integrated programme and other relevant forums, notably the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.

16.37 While all countries benefit from international cooperation through the subprogramme, it will pay special attention to the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Mediterranean region. As part of the strategy to implement the subprogramme, ECE will carry out its work in cooperation with FAO and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and provide regional input to the United Nations Forum on Forests. To support forest management, including the use of wood and forest products, that is sustainable from the ecological, economic and social points of view, it is necessary to maintain a good balance between those three aspects, based on a strong consensus about goals and methods among all stakeholders, as well as to ensure that the strategy is well integrated into the policy framework of other sectors (the cross-sectoral approach). Achieving sustainable forest management is primarily a sovereign national responsibility. However, regional international cooperation, through the timber and forestry subprogramme and its partners, will contribute by developing and disseminating concepts and information, sharing experience and defining standard measurement tools (indicators) for sustainable forest management.

Subprogramme 8
Housing, land management and population

Objective of the Organization: to improve housing, urban and land governance in the region as well as the knowledge base on population issues, strengthening the formulation and implementation of policies, enhancing social cohesion and developing capacities at the national and local levels

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved capacity for policy formulation and implementation in housing, planning and land administration in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and South-Eastern Europe	(a) (i) The number of new countries engaged in an ECE results-oriented assessment of their housing policies and land administration systems (ii) The number of countries that reported to have taken measures to improve housing policies and land management practices
(b) Strengthened implementation by countries of ECE guidelines on social housing, land administration, housing management and finance	(b) The number of countries that reported to have taken measures to implement ECE recommendations and guidelines
(c) Enhanced national policy formulation on population issues to meet the challenges of demographic change	(c) The number of countries that have adjusted their policies or introduced new measures in the policy areas decided upon at the 2007 ECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing, held in León, Spain

Strategy

16.38 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division. The subprogramme will aim at promoting the implementation of the ECE strategy for a sustainable quality of life in human settlements in the twenty-first century and the Ministerial Declaration on Social and Economic Challenges in Distressed Urban Areas in the ECE Region. This will contribute to social inclusion through the development of affordable housing, further addressing effective management of multifamily housing estates as well as to improved land administration and spatial planning.

16.39 In order to contribute to efficient and transparent governance and improvement of the urban environment, continued efforts will be made to analyse the existing housing situation, including maintenance, renewal and new construction, to review housing policies, to provide policy recommendations and to carry out capacity-building activities at the national and local levels. The subprogramme will also promote the use by member States of ECE guidelines in the areas of housing, spatial planning and land administration. The upgrade of land and real estate systems will be further supported in order to provide secure ownership in land, investment and other private and public rights in real estate. Regional model programmes and pilot projects as well as public-private partnerships will be encouraged.

16.40 The integration of housing policy with spatial planning, land administration, population and environmental policy will be strengthened. Such cross-sectoral issues as the energy efficiency of the housing sector and the housing needs of the elderly will be addressed.

16.41 The population component of the subprogramme will promote the implementation of the commitments of the 2007 ECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing, inter alia, aimed at meeting the challenges arising from demographic change and releasing the unused potential embedded in some population groups, in particular, older persons. A region-wide cooperation programme of data collection and research on issues related to population ageing, intergenerational collaboration, gender relations, family and fertility will continue to be implemented. Good practices will be exchanged and national capacities for policy formulation in response to population ageing will be developed.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
57/144	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
57/253	World Summit on Sustainable Development
57/270 B	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
57/274	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
59/250	Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome
61/4	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
61/13	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe
61/16	Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council
61/210	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy
62/79	Cooperation between the United Nations and the European Economic Community
62/137	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
2006/14	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2007/29	Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16
2007/33	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Economic and Social Council decisions

1997/224	Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe and Plan of Action

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

E/ECE/RW.2/2000/7	ECE Report from the Regional Preparatory Meeting on the 2000 Review of Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, January 2000
E/ECE/1434/Rev.1	Work Plan on ECE Reform

Subprogramme 1
Environment

General Assembly resolutions

58/217	International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015
59/228	Activities undertaken during the International Year of Freshwater, 2003, preparations for the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources
62/189	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2003/61	Future programme, organization and methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

ECE/AC.21/2002/8	Declaration on the establishment of a Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) adopted by the Second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health

Subprogramme 2
Transport

General Assembly resolutions

58/9	Global road safety crisis
58/201	Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries
60/5	Improving global road safety
62/204	Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1999/65	Reconfiguration of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into a Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
2007/6	Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
2007/16	Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

ECE/AC.21/2002/8	Declaration on the establishment of a Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) adopted by the Second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health

Subprogramme 3
Statistics

General Assembly resolutions

61/143	Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1993/5	1993 System of National Accounts
2005/13	2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme
2006/6	Strengthening statistical capacity

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

C (47)	The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in the Region of the Economic Commission of Europe

Subprogramme 4
Economic cooperation and integration

General Assembly resolutions

60/188	Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development
61/12	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
62/199	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
62/204	Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2004/64	International Conference on Financing for Development
2007/30	Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

Subprogramme 5
Sustainable energy

General Assembly resolutions

62/189	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
62/197	Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2003/61	Future programme, organization and methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Economic and Social Council decisions

1997/226	United Nations International Framework Classification for Energy Reserves/Resources: Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities
2004/233	United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources

Subprogramme 6
Trade

General Assembly resolutions

58/230	Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development
60/188	Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development
60/252	World Summit on the Information Society
62/184	International trade and development
62/199	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
62/204	Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1991/76	Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation
2004/64	International Conference on Financing for Development
2006/46	Follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Economic and Social Council decisions

1997/225	Economic Commission for Europe Recommendation 25, entitled "Use of the UN/EDIFACT Standard"

Subprogramme 7
Timber and forestry

General Assembly resolutions

54/218	Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly
61/193	International Year of Forests, 2011

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2006/49	Outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Subprogramme 8
Housing, land management and population

General Assembly resolutions

57/275	Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
59/239	Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
61/208	International migration and development
62/130	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
62/198	Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

United Nations Commission on Population and Development decisions

E/2004/25- E/CN.9/2004/9	**Resolution on the Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development**

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

ECE/AC.23/2002/2/Rev.6	**Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002**
ECE/AC.30/2007/6	**Leon Ministerial Declaration, "A Society for all Ages: Challenges and Opportunities"**
ECE/HBP/120	***Strategy for a sustainable quality of life in human settlements in the twenty-first Century*, endorsed at a ministerial meeting in 2000**
ECE/HBP/142/Add.1	**Ministerial Declaration on "Social and Economic Challenges in Distressed Urban Areas in the UNECE Region", adopted in 2006**